

11-5112

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5 June 1959

MEMORANDUM FOR THE RECORD

SUBJECT: Meeting with Senator Karl E. Mundt (R., S. Dak.) on
Freedom Commission Bill - S. 1689

STATINTL

1. Following up on information received from Ed McCabe in the White House, the Director accompanied by [REDACTED] met with Senator Karl E. Mundt on 4 June 1959 for approximately one hour to discuss S. 1689, the Mundt-Douglas version of the Freedom Commission bills (H. R. 3880 et al).

2. Senator Mundt indicated that he and Representative Judd have discussed the problem at length and that neither are firmly attached to any particular method of accomplishing the objectives although they are strongly of the view that much more can and should be done in the field of alerting people in the U. S. and particularly those going abroad whether Government, commercial or even tourists. As examples he indicated that the General Electric man in Buenos Aires could well receive a four to six weeks' course at the Freedom Academy prior to returning to his post. He indicated that agricultural attaches in addition to knowing agriculture should know what the Communist menace truly is and how to cope with it rather than simply doing a good job as an agricultural attache.

3. Senator Mundt indicated that he thought the Freedom Commission which would be the supervisory body could well be made up of individuals such as Allen W. Dulles, J. Edgar Hoover, George Allen and also knowledgeable private citizens. Senator Mundt further stated that many businessmen had asked him if there were places where knowledge about the Communist danger could be imparted. Since the bill had been introduced he has received many queries as to whether it will move forward.

4. Senator Mundt's concept seems to differ from the wording of his bill. He states he is not proposing to establish a university or college type of Freedom Academy but rather a seminar type activity which would call on visiting lecturers and not draw full time professors from other institutions of learning. He visualized that the length of the course would be approximately six weeks and would be specifically geared to the areas of the world to which the students might be going. Another example of the Senator's concept differing from the wording of the bill is his thought previously mentioned of having individuals such as Allen W. Dulles, J. Edgar Hoover and George Allen (as examples) serving on the Commission. The bill specifically provides that no member of the Commission shall engage in any business or employment other than that of serving as a member of the Commission.

5. Senator Mundt stated he is not aiming this at the college level individual but wants to aim at the man who has the job and will be abroad. Senator Mundt emphasized that many Americans are extremely naive about Communism and this institute should acquaint them with the true facts about the Kremlin leaders as opposed to the fine sounding tenets of Communist philosophy. Senator Mundt also mentioned the increasing problem of demonstrating to the American people the true value of the tremendous amounts of money being used for foreign aid and thought that in time to come there could well be the possibility that dollars as an instrument of fighting Communism could well be decreased drastically or cut off entirely. Senator Mundt stated that the Freedom Commission could tend to fill the gap in the fight against Communism abroad if foreign aid is drastically reduced. He believed the Freedom Academy could be presented as a positive type action which the American people would understand and would support expenditures of Government funds for such a purpose.

6. Senator Mundt stated that he was very desirous of having the Director appear at hearings to be held on the Senate bill by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Mundt stated he hoped the Director could give some encouraging words with specific suggestions and other comments. Mundt did mention that in initial consideration of the bill that there had been a thought of putting the Freedom Commission as a part of CIA but this had been discarded for obvious reasons.

7. During the course of the discussion the Director indicated the large training effort of the Agency in this field and the fact that a large part of the Agency's effort was in fact devoted to fighting the Communists as opposed to the intelligence function. Senator Mundt seemed to

appreciate this fact but thought that more could be done overtly. Senator Mundt seemed most appreciative of the Director sitting down to discuss the matter and the meeting was most amicable. No commitments were made on behalf of the Agency. Senator Mundt requested the Director to pose for a photograph with the Senator to indicate discussion of S. 1689, but the Director declined. In addition, Senator Mundt raised the question of whether the Director would pose for a filmed interview which Senator Mundt would put on television in his home State. The Director indicated some of the difficulties in this and the point was not pressed.

cc: Robert Merriam (White House)
9 cc: [REDACTED] for CC B members

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Legislative Counsel

cc: 3 - DCI
1 - IG
1 - DD/I
1 - A/DD/P/P